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M E M O R A N D U M

EPA Region 5 Records Ctr.



316148

DATE: March 30, 1989
TO: Pflieger Greiss File
FROM: Andrea Davis, FIT *AD*
SUBJECT: Pflieger Greiss Data and Possible Immediate Response
Action U.S. EPA ID# ILD980993562
CC: Alan Altur, U.S. EPA

FIT conducted a Screening Site Inspection (SSI) of the Pflieger Greiss Site, located in Waukegan, Illinois, on January 5, 1989. Seven on-site soil samples and 2 off-site samples were collected.

Organic and inorganic data analysis of FIT-collected soil samples reviewed by the E & E Health and Safety staff has determined that a possible public health threat may be present at the Pflieger Greiss Site. Concentration levels in surface soil samples as shallow as 1 to 6 inches (refer to attached soil sampling locations) revealed TCL compounds such as benzo[a]pyrene, a known carcinogen, as high as 4.6 ppm, (refer to attached data summary sheets). Other polyaromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) were also detected in similar concentrations. Concentration levels in subsurface (1 foot) samples were similar for PAHs and considerably higher for flouranthene (18 ppm) and pyrene (12 ppm), both suspect carcinogens. A non-typical soil sample found in an open, rusted drum revealed 2-hexanone in a high concentration (5.6 ppm).

Concentration levels in surface soil samples as shallow as 1 to 6 inches also revealed TAL analytes such as chromium as high as 70,100 ppm; copper as high as 1,060 ppm, cobalt as high as 1,270 ppm; lead as high as 2,160 ppm; and mercury as high as 36.4 J* ppm. Concentrations in

subsurface soil samples were similar.

Formerly the site was used by the Pflieger Greiss Tanning Co. (owned by Beggs and Cobb Corp. Vernon Leather Div. Peabody, MA.) for their operations which extended from approximately 1918 to July 1973, at which time they closed. The Illinois Environmental Protection Agency oversaw the closure which consisted of removing two tannery waste piles, dewatering a sludge pit which contained a number of 55-gallon drums and putting down a final cover of sand and black dirt mix. Three months later, Commonwealth Edison purchased the property. Since its purchase, no use has been made of the 24.3 acre area. In the winter of 1973-74 CE tore down all former plant buildings, and may have excavated or re-graded the area. No future uses are planned for the site.

At the time of the SSI, FIT observed dirt and clay piles containing rusted drums, various metal debris and tires. A fence surrounding the site was damaged and open at the main gate. The site is located in a primarily industrial area, however, the proximity to Lake Michigan, the Illinois Beach State Park, and residential areas are within the 1-mile radius. The area is on the southwestern edge of CE's property and is not easily supervised by CE personnel. Harry Bernhard, Senior Environmental Engineer of Environmental Affairs at CE, believes the gate was vandalized. There is no indication that the gate has been repaired since the SSI.

In 1985, CE conducted an analysis of the soils at the site. Results of these were requested by FIT and will be forthcoming. It is the author's opinion that Commonwealth Edison be notified and alerted to the potential threat of a direct contact incident. Harry Bernhard (312-294-4447) or Judy Freitag of regulatory complaints at CE (312-294-4321 Ext. 3016) would be most familiar with the site.

*J qualifier indicates a value above CRDL and is an estimated value because of a QC protocol.